

TROPICAL STORM CECIL (18W)

I. HIGHLIGHTS

Tropical Storm Cecil was a short-lived, midget tropical cyclone that formed in the wake of Typhoon Abe (15W). As Abe raced poleward, the monsoon trough reestablished itself over northern Luzon, and Cecil formed at the northeast end of the trough. Cecil tracked northward and skirted the northern coast of Taiwan before making landfall in southeastern China.

II. CHRONOLOGY OF EVENTS

020600Z - First mentioned on Significant Tropical Weather Advisory as a low level cyclonic circulation in the monsoon trough.

030400Z - Tropical Cyclone Formation Alert issued due to Dvorak intensity estimate of CI 1.5.

040000Z - First tropical storm warning issued after Dvorak analysis jumped up to CI 2.5.

040600Z - Peak intensity - 45 kt (23 m/sec) - based on synoptic report.

050000Z - Final warning issued as Cecil moved over land and dissipated.

III. TRACK AND MOTION

After Abe (15W) moved inland and northward over China, Cecil formed northeast of Luzon in association with a surge in the monsoon. Cecil tracked northward around the western periphery of the maritime subtropical ridge. As the tropical cyclone approached northern Taiwan, it turned northwestward and made landfall over southeastern China.

IV. INTENSITY

The mountainous terrain of Taiwan inhibited Cecil's development, however the tropical cyclone consolidated on a smaller than normal scale to become a midget tropical storm. The peak intensity of 45 kt (23 m/sec) was attained while crossing the Formosa Strait. Cecil (Figure 3-18-1) dissipated rapidly after making landfall over mainland China.

V. FORECASTING PERFORMANCE

The overall JTWC forecast performance is shown in Figure 3-18-2. Forecasters initially expected Cecil to continue to track northward around the western side of the subtropical ridge. Subsequent forecasts reflected the northwestward track across the Formosa Strait and dissipation over land.

VI. IMPACT

No information was received.

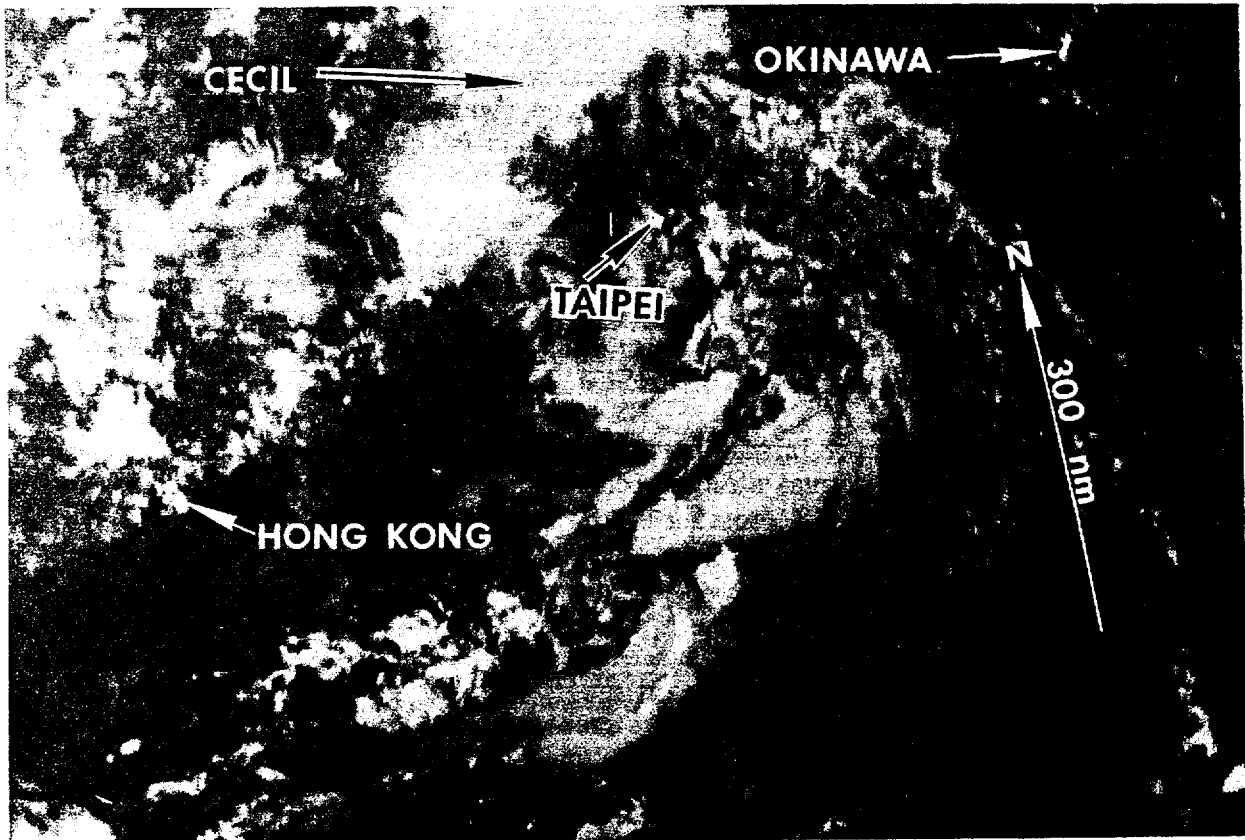


Figure 3-18-1. Moonlight photo of Cecil's small central dense overcast just on the coast of southeastern China. There is another tropical disturbance just southeast of Taipei. Note the bright city lights of Hong Kong, Taipei and Okinawa (041333Z September DMSP visual imagery).

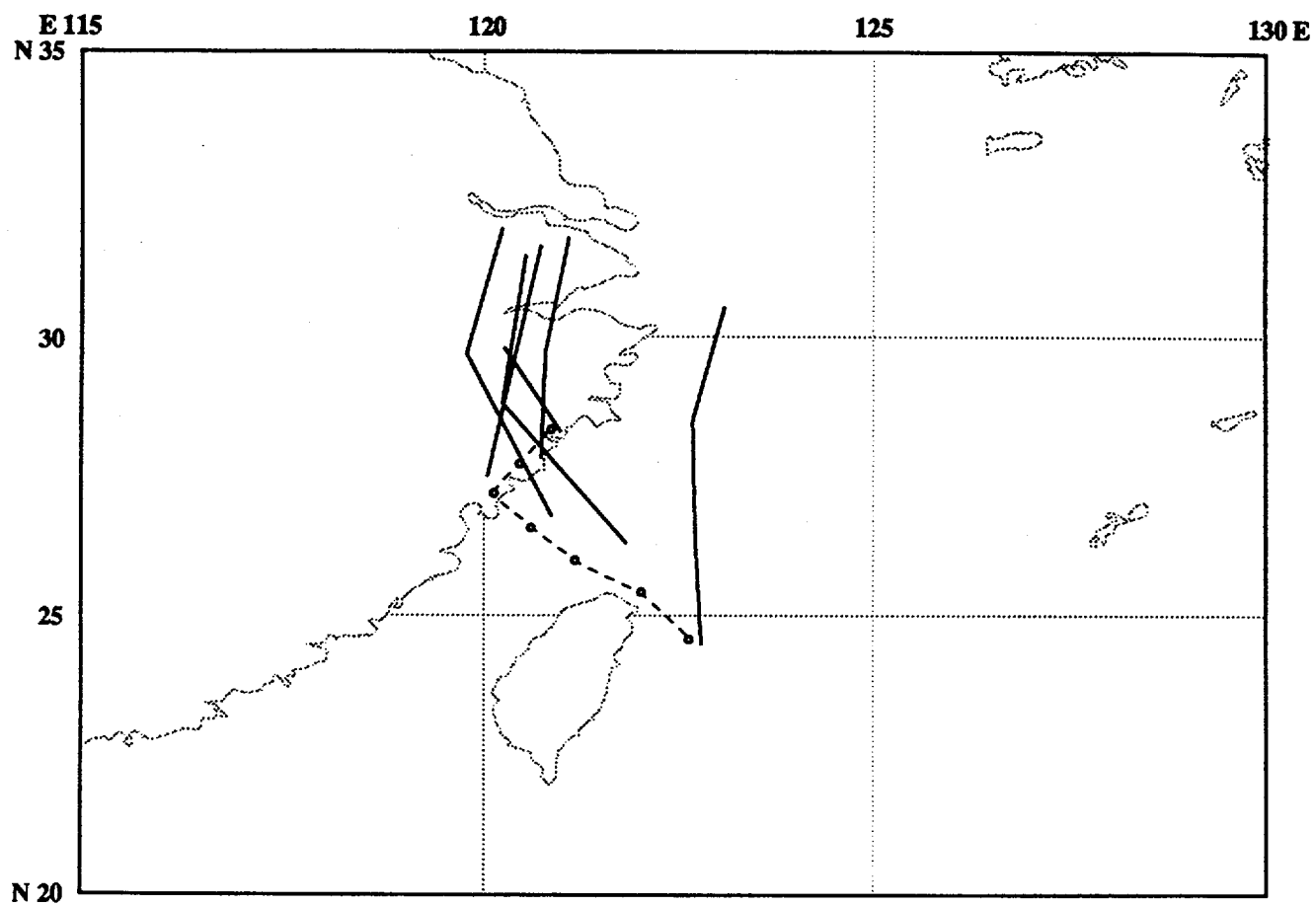


Figure 3-18-2. Summary of JTWC forecasts (solid lines) for Cecil are superimposed on the best track (dashed line).